

Chittenden Native Plant Pollinator Gardens for the Cadillac-Manistee District

2008 Accomplishments

In July 2008 we prepared and planted two native pollinator gardens and several native shrubs at Chittenden, a former nursery. Within a day after planting the native pollinator gardens they had already been visited by deer, moles, hummingbirds, ladybugs, and several bees. Within a month after planting, the gardens were being visited by many species of pollinators, including bees, bumblebees, butterflies, hummingbirds, beetles, moths, and flies. We planted 5 species of grasses, 6 species of shrubs, and 19 species of wildflowers, for a total of 468 plants.

In addition to the two pollinator gardens, we mowed a fallow seedbed to prepare them for planting in the fields were mown for knapweed control, but were not top problems with the herbicide sprayer. Treatments in 2007 and 2008 drastically reduced the spotted knapweed and other invasive plant populations that had dominated the seedbeds. Twenty-eight species of native grass and wildflower seed was purchased to be planted this fall.

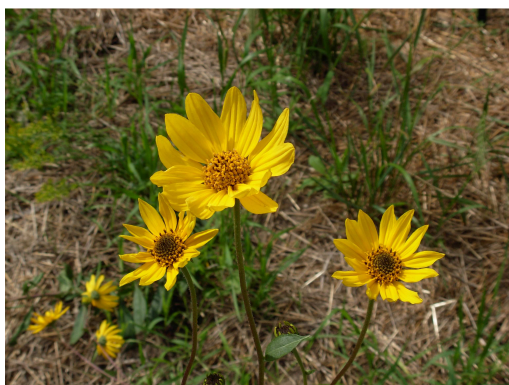
Members from almost every discipline in our office helped with this project, including timber, administration, recreation, wildlife, fisheries, fire, and botany.

Two 24" x 36" signs were developed and printed in conjunction with the Baldwin-White Cloud District. Individual plant markers were purchased and posted with temporary labels. Permanent labels will be developed over the winter to post in the spring of 2009. The rest of the budget was borrowed by fire before it could be used for brochures and a third sign.

An unexpected but very exciting addition to this project is that professors and students from Grand Valley State University will be

using the plantings in the fallow seedbeds as experimental sites to examine the interactions between more and less aggressive species.

Coreopsis lanceolata
(photo by Carolyn Henne)



Bumblebee on Blazingstar
(photo by Carolyn Henne)

Year Awarded: 2008
Project completion: 2008
Report number: 1 of 1
Expenditures:

- FY 2008 funding—\$20,000
- Seed, plants, & planting—\$11,035
- Signs & plant labels—\$3,247
- Site Prep—\$3,338
- \$2,380 redirected to fire

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